

THE MAGAZINE FOR PEOPLE
WHO VALUE THE OUTDOORS

out

A man wearing a brown hat, glasses, a dark coat, and rubber boots is walking on a rocky path in a forest. He is holding a wooden stick. Three Springer Spaniels are walking with him; one is sniffing the ground, and the other two are looking up at him. The background is a dense forest with green trees.

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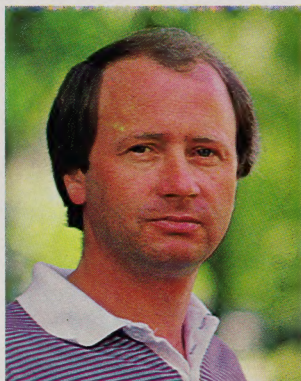
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A word from the Editor



Cover Photo: Jim Gourlay

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"Let us consider the way in which we spend our lives. This world is a place of business. What an infinite bustle! I am awakened almost every night by the panting of the locomotive. It interrupts my dreams. There is no Sabbath. It would be glorious to see mankind at leisure for once. It is nothing but work, work, work."

"I think there is nothing, not even crime, more opposed to poetry, to philosophy, ay to life itself, than this incessant business." — Henry David Thoreau.

The meeting was held ostensibly to discuss the concept of taking *Insight* temporarily outdoors. A single issue, they said, with an outdoorsy insert squeezed in among the regular news features.

Well, one thing led to another, and another, and the punch line is that at the end of the evening someone accurately summarized the outcome by remarking:

"Good Lord! I think we've just launched a magazine."

It was perhaps inevitable that the conversation would lead us to the conclusion that we should attempt to fill a very obvious void in Atlantic Canada — our own outdoor magazine — for there is not a single publication currently catering to the region as a whole in this field.

Oh! we can read about mule deer in the midwestern United States, or panfishing in Georgia, or bonefishing in Florida, or lake trout and walleyes in Northern Ontario, or wild turkeys in Virginia, or grizzlies in Alaska, or backpacking in the Rockies, or rafting down the Colorado...

And that's all very entertaining.

But how relevant? Who here can relate to it? And who, here, is reporting to the public on issues pertinent to our own natural resources in any meaningful way?

What you see produced here is a hastily put together sample of what we hope to achieve; something to merely whet your appetite if you will. We plan to produce the first full-fledged issue in March of 1985. It will be

our purpose to entertain, to inform, to advise, and to comment upon those things like-minded people passionately care about. The politics and the economics that are the standard fare of the more conventional media are certainly significant — but fishermen care infinitely more about the rivers and lakes; upland game enthusiasts more about their dogs; backpackers about hiking trails and the forest canopy; canoeists about the latest in kevlar, and so on.

There can be few outdoor folk indeed who would find fault with that typical little piece of philosophy above from Thoreau — a man who insisted upon living his life pleasurably, rather than profitably. For some, the outdoors offers a welcome, even vital, respite from the grind of earning a living. For others, possibly the majority, work is merely a means of ensuring there is bread on the table and being outdoors is what life is really about.

Even today there are people in this part of the world who have managed to emulate Thoreau by arranging their lives in such a way as to forfeit the dubious pleasures of the urban rat race in favour of a humble, tranquil existence close to natural things.

But if we find tranquility and poetry and entertainment out of doors, we must also contemplate the darker side of things; the stark reality that in the world we have created it has become necessary to fight and kick and squawk to protect our little corner from those who would have everything their way.

Here too, Thoreau offers guidance:

"Let not to get a living be thy trade, but thy sport. Enjoy the land, but own it not. Through want of enterprise and faith men are where they are, buying and selling and spending their lives like serfs..."

"...I was rich, if not in money, in sunny hours and summer days, and spent them lavishly... But since I left those shores the woodchoppers have further laid them waste..."

"How can you expect the birds to sing when their groves are cut down?"

— Jim Gourlay





Excellent
Prospects
for the

Monarch of the Backwoods

*Newfoundland's moose
management strategy is
a real success story*

If sightings by motorists this spring and summer were any indication, moose populations on the island portion of Newfoundland may be the healthiest they've been in years. Locals, tourists, truckers, and others who travel the Trans Canada Highway have reported multiple sightings of the huge animals along the roadsides or among the many bogs and coniferous forests bordering the narrow ribbon of blacktop.

Branch roads leading into smaller settlements along coastal areas, although carrying less traffic, are still favourite crossings for Newfoundland's forest monarch and sightings here have also been higher than usual.

Part of the reason may be attributed to the annual calving period when cows will drive off last year's offspring in preparation for a new birth, or the late spring and delayed budding of green leafy trees; but

overall credit must go to stock management by Newfoundland's Wildlife Division.

Division director Dave Pike says moose have thrived in the province although the environment is not ideal for them, primarily because they have no competition for the food source and because they lack natural predators.

The largest member of the deer family, moose are not native to the island but were first introduced more than a century

ago. A bull and two cows were brought in from Nova Scotia in 1878 and released in central Newfoundland near Gander. In 1904 a pair of bulls and two cows were brought in from New Brunswick and released in the western region near Howley at the tip of Grand Lake. Prolific breeding and an undisturbed existence resulted in reports of moose nearly 50 miles from Howley by 1920, and by 1945 moose were distributed throughout the island.

Hunting pressure began to take its toll, however, and by the 1960s it had become apparent that moose populations in accessible areas near urban settlements were being overharvested.

To make matters worse, there were signs that the interior underharvest was resulting in moose becoming less prolific in their breeding habits, calf counts were down and the mature animals were overbrowsing their ranges. Not only was there a need to generally reduce the annual harvest by curtailing hunting pressure, but the pressure had to be relieved in some areas and increased in others to balance

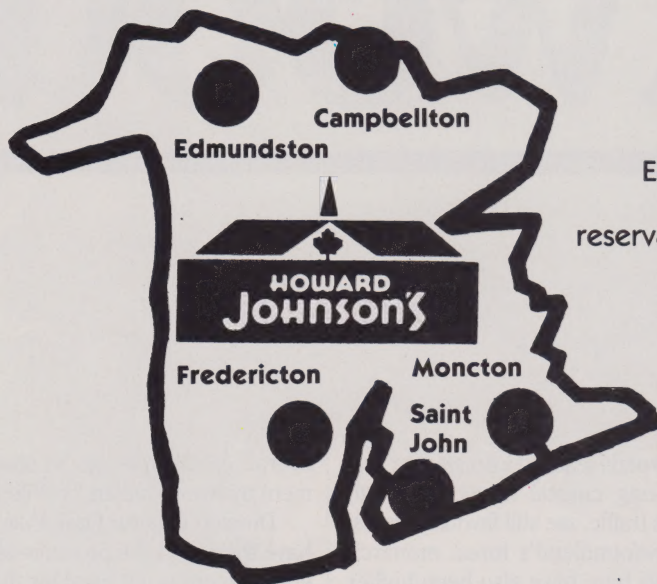


the scales and create a healthy environment for renewed growth.

This was accomplished through the establishment of moose management

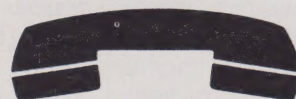
areas, 30 in all. Moose populations were determined through census counts, and quotas were established to allow a reasonable harvest in specific areas. Quotas were

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generally low licence quotas, being conservative in our estimates, and our island moose population is now considered to be about 60,000 animals."

Pike says the overall strategy is to monitor census figures, the number of sightings, the number of hunting days required to take an animal, success rate in a given area, age information from jawbones which are required to be turned in to the Wildlife Division, and projected calf crops. These factors as well as specific local conditions, such as spruce budworm damage to browse areas, are all considered in the setting of annual licence quotas.

While more than 60,000 individuals were eligible to apply for big game licences in 1984, the Wildlife Division received 30,316 valid applications for the computer selection system. Of these, 24,356 were party applications involving a hunter and a partner for a total of 48,712 persons, and the remaining 5,960 were individual applications for a total of 54,672 potential hunters.

When the computer draw was completed in mid-June this year using a pool-priority system loaded towards party applications and persons who were not issued licences in the previous two to three years, a total of 10,490 moose licences had been issued. Those included 10,002 party licences to accommodate 20,004 hunters, and 488 individual licences to persons who wished to hunt alone.

"Our success rate over the years has been about 60 per cent, although it rises to 80 per cent in some areas, so we expect about 6,000 animals, or about 10 to 15 per cent of our total moose population to be harvested," says big game biologist Sebastian Oosterbrug. "Our goal is to maintain a population of about 60,000 animals."

Oosterbrug says moose populations in western Newfoundland management areas have either remained stable or shown real growth and a generally healthy population. Licence allotments for those areas have therefore either remained stable or been adjusted upward.

Other factors considered in stock management include encroachment and poaching, but Pike feels those are currently under control. Woods operations by the province's paper giants, Abitibi-Price and Bowater Newfoundland Ltd., opened up miles of new country to hunters and poachers alike with construction of woods roads. Technological advances in recrea-

set to control the harvest in areas with heavy pressure to allow a rebuilding of stocks, and loaded toward a heavier harvest in the interior where overpopulation had become a problem.

Hand in hand with the management plan came a licence allotment system to limit the amount of legal hunting pressure in each area. The new quotas used a simple formula — if, for example, moose populations through census were estimated at 3,000 animals in a particular moose management area, an allowable harvest would be in the 10 to 12 per cent range, or about 325 animals. With the knowledge that Newfoundland hunters enjoyed a 60 per cent average success rate, about 700 licences could be safely issued for this area and still allow the stocks to maintain a healthy level.

Hunters were required to enter a draw system, selecting one or more areas in which they wished to hunt. Those areas requiring "thinning out" offered a better chance for the issuance of a licence.

As the number of applicants swelled, a "party" licence was offered, where two hunters could team up to pursue a single animal on one licence, and this type of application was given priority in the pool system.

The new management plan and draw went into effect in 1973, and, despite some initial negative public reaction, has proven successful during the past decade.

"It's fair to say our management strategy has worked," says Pike. "During the latter 1970s and early 1980s we had

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tional vehicles such as snowmobiles, all terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles, have also created increased pressure and accessibility during the past few decades.

"But you have to look at the other side of the coin," says Pike. "These machines and new roads also gave our enforcement people access to catch the poachers, so it all evens out."

A new program in the war against poachers was Operation SPORT, an acronym for "Stop POaching... Report Today," and patterned loosely after the federal fisheries' Dial-A-Poacher program.

Limited to the west coast's Deer Lake-Bay of Islands areas, the pilot program offered the public a Zenith number through which they could anonymously report big game violations. During the brief trial period 20 calls were received. All were investigated, and five persons were successfully prosecuted as a result. The most significant of these was a Deer Lake man who received a \$3,000 fine and five months in jail for his second conviction within two years.

This modest program, which cost the province \$6,500, returned a total of \$10,500 in fines through convictions, and is slated for province-wide expansion with a new toll-free number this year.

Pike says the program indicates a trend toward more public involvement and a general attitude that poaching is no longer an acceptable practice.

He related one incident which illustrates the changing mood of Newfoundlanders toward illegal hunting.

"One East coast resident drove to my office from his small community to personally report an incident. He was afraid to call from his home because he felt that somehow his call might be overheard, and he still had to live within that small town's social structure. But he did go to the trouble to drive in and report the poaching to us personally, and we investigated, going directly to those persons he had named. This resulted in six convictions and heavy fines for those individuals. The reason he gave for reporting the incident was simply that he 'just couldn't condone it any longer.'"

Needless to say, according to the local field officer, poaching activity in that particular area diminished considerably following the convictions and has remained at a low level.

Public resentment towards poaching and expansion of the SPORT program, combined with the proven management methods of the Newfoundland Wildlife Division, promise a healthy future for Newfoundland moose.

Len Rich in Corner Brook



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THE FLY BOX



The Herb Johnson Special

The fall brings colors, frosty mornings, insect-free evenings and a whole new slant to fishing techniques, not the least of them fly choice.

Natural insect life as far as trout are concerned has diminished in size since the summer. Tiny midges and caddis and mayflies are on the water now, but large males have become aggressive as spawning time nears and will strike at large streamer flies.

And so it is with salmon. It is a known fact that hookbills will attack precocious parr hovering near the spawning redds hoping to mate with females many times their size. It was with this phenomenon in mind that the Herb Johnson special was designed.

The original fly calls for a fairly full dressing that has the disadvantage of riding up in fast water and providing unwanted wind resistance on breezy days. Fortunately, however, it can be pared down considerably and still work well. In fact, based on the British experience and traditions with respect to streamers, it might be logical to suggest the sparser the better. British streamer flies can be three or more inches in length with no more hairs riding on the hook than one can count on the fingers of both hands.

This particular fly has a wing built from several different fibre types, so it is most important that the tier take extreme care

that not too much is applied.

The original pattern calls for a long-shank hook. This is okay, but unnecessary.

The body is fashioned with black wool, tied fairly full and wound with silver tinsel. (The original pattern specifies embossed tinsel wound backwards, but the significance of this seems to have escaped the salmon. It is therefore also unnecessary.)

The throat is supposed to be made of white bucktail, very sparse and as long as the body, but we prefer natural polar bear.

The wing is built from a bunch of bright yellow bucktail, longer than the hook, on each side of which are tied strands of red and blue fluorescent floss. Over this, on each side, are tied two strands of peacock herl (or sword) and on top goes some brown/yellow bucktail from the yellow-dyed deer tail.

Once again we defer from the original pattern, this time with the head. A large head is called for, which should be painted silver, and upon which a yellow eye is later applied. It is simpler to wrap silver tinsel around the head with a generous application of cement. In fact, a normal head with jungle cock eye is quite satisfactory.

On a number 2 hook the fly is more than 2½ inches long, but it is effective in sizes right down to an 8, and will take brown, brook and rainbow trout quite readily.

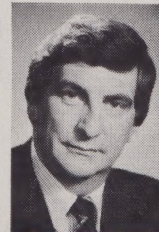


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A group of early season blue-wing teal lifts noisily from a Ducks Unlimited reclaimed marshland.

On the wall of Allan Glover's Amherst office is a large map of the Maritimes liberally sprinkled with red pins — 211 to be exact — and each pin represents a completed Ducks Unlimited (DU) Canada project.

From the point of view of hunters, wildlife photographers, canoeists, bird watchers, anglers, or, in fact, anyone whose interests or activities involve the outdoors, each of these pins represents a reprieve for a part of our environmental heritage.

Al Glover is Maritimes manager for DU Canada and he expects to stick 45 more pins in the map this year.

In an era when urban sprawl, acid rain, herbicides, water pollution, and erosion and siltation of cleared land have degraded much of our natural wilderness, each

pin added is a shining star in an otherwise dark ecological future.

Ducks Unlimited is an exemplary and enormously successful non-profit organization originated by outdoorsmen in the United States during the dust-bowl conditions of the Thirties in recognition of the fact that unless the rapid loss of wetlands was arrested, waterfowl risked flying the same route as the passenger pigeon.

Since nesting areas are most crucial to waterfowl survival, the funds raised were directed towards the preservation and enhancement of wetland nesting areas in Canada. To date, more than 2,000 projects in Canada have preserved about 3 million acres of wetland habitat.

Donations, corporate and private, have come largely from the heart-warmingly suc-

DON'T JUST THINK ABOUT IT
DO IT!



PARTICIPACTION 

cessful DU dinners where just about anything of interest to migratory bird hunters is either raffled or auctioned off.

While the primary motivation is unquestionably to rescue suitable habitat from a common misconception that wetlands are unproductive, undesirable wastelands, there are interesting side benefits. Strategically-placed flow control structures ensure deep water is available for fishing and canoeing, for instance.

In and around Sackville, New Brunswick, alone there are a number of completed DU projects providing many thousands of hours of outdoor recreational opportunity each year.

White Birch, where a private venture into the growing of wild rice also provides ample wildfowl habitat; the vast Tintamare wildlife area where more than 4,900 acres of wetlands is owned by the Canadian government and administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service; or the Missaguash wildlife area straddling the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border and which is owned and operated by the Province of Nova Scotia.

Each of these wetland regions shares the common factor of having been created with the assistance of DU Canada.

While these examples are comparatively large projects, the average size of those undertaken in the Maritimes is 175 acres, with several in the 50-acre range.

Landowners often ask if some portion of their holdings, perhaps wet and unproductive, might make a suitable project for DU. Al Glover detailed the procedure:

At the request of a landowner DU Canada will carry out a biological and engineering inspection of the property to determine if the site is suitable. If findings are favourable, a legal agreement is drawn up whereby DU will build the dykes, dams or any other water control structures, and the landowner agrees to the continuance of the wetlands created for a specified period of time; usually 21 years. He will also agree during that time to permit DU personnel access to the area for purposes of inspection and maintenance.

The question of public access is left entirely at the discretion of the landowner.

Prior to the actual flooding of the land, however, there is a great deal that requires to be seen to.

Glover motions towards a stack of documents and drawings relating to the ongoing Hillsborough Marsh project near Moncton.

In any project DU staff are required to work closely with various provincial and federal authorities. In this particular case approval was required from Environment New Brunswick for water course alteration. Fisheries and Oceans in Halifax was re-

quired to approve the design of a fishway in the proposed dam. There was a comprehensive project outline documenting the location, its total acreage, a brief history and description of the land, and many other details. There were plot plans, engineering drawings of the control structures, soil analyses, and so on.

In other words, a complete and thorough examination of everything of potential importance before a single machine lumbered on to the site; once part of land held by a gypsum mining company that fell into receivership. Now owned by the Government of New Brunswick, the area will be deeded to the village of Hillsborough whose residents are most enthusiastic about the project.

When completed it will provide a new breeding ground for blue-wing teal, black ducks, and many other species common to the region, and many hours of recreation for the people of the area.

Keith McAloney, a DU biologist in the Amherst office, says: "In recent years we have seen many wetland species, not normally common to the Maritimes, breeding in these impounded areas. These include redhead, ruddy, shoveller, and gadwall ducks, as well as black terns, gallinules, coots and least bitterns.

"Part of our work also involves the maintenance of existing impoundments. This includes water level manipulation, drawdowns (draining) to re-establish fertility levels, as well as vegetation control by level ditching the use of the mechanical "cookie-cutter."

"We also establish nesting boxes for wood ducks, goldeneye and hooded merganser."

Keith had just completed several days of flying in which he had carried out a brood survey of several impoundments to approximate fall duck populations. The news was not great:

"This year's cold, wet spring with heavy rains appears to have had an adverse effect on the numbers of broods hatched, but it will be fall before true numbers are known because when the first nesting is not successful pairs will try again.

Yet, even with the risk of spring weather that is not particularly conducive to successful hatching, there can be no doubt that due to DU Canada's efforts there are now multitudes of ducks where there was once perhaps only a single pair.

By putting their money where their mouths are, the waterfowl fraternity of Canada, the United States and Mexico have addressed the real issue in wildlife conservation — preservation of habitat.

Everett Mosher in Sackville, N.B.

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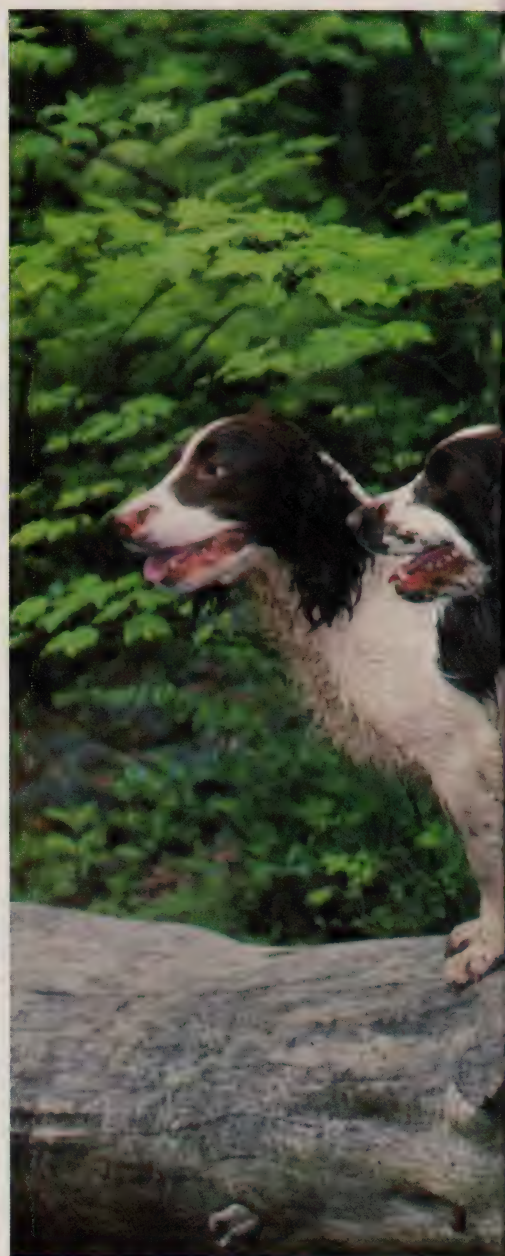
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In what must surely be one of the most enduring love affairs in history, outdoorsmen have adored their dogs with an affection that would render any woman jealous.

Spaniels have consistently been high on the list of man's very best friends — and probably the all-time favourite in this category has been the English Springer.

Consider what English author Gervase Markham had to say about this breed back in 1621...

"Yet is their none so excellent indeede as the true bred lande-spaniell, being of nimble and good size, rather small than grosse, and of a courageous and fierie mettall, evermore loving and desiring toyle when toyle seems most yrksome and wearie, which although you cannot know in a whelpe so yonge, as it is intended he

must be, when you first begin to traine him to this purpose, yet may you have a strong speculation therein, if you choose him from a right litter or breede, wherein by succession you have known that the whole generation have been enduede with all these qualities, as namely, that he is a strong, lusty and nimble raundger, both of active foote, wanton tayle and busie nostrill, and that his toyle is without wearienesse, his search without changableness, and yet, that no delight nor desire transport him beyond feare or obedience, for it is the perfectest character of the most perfectest spaniell, ever to be fearful and loving to him that is his Master and keeper.

The grammar may be somewhat peculiar and the language, of course, is antique, Elizabethan style — but the message

is abundantly clear. It is likely that without previous knowledge of what the man was discussing in this passage, any springer owner might have guessed.

What is astounding, in fact, is that in terms of the relationship between man and dog, virtually nothing has changed in four centuries.

Perhaps the closest thing to the "father" of springer popularity in Atlantic Canada is a retired medical man living in Halifax. The name Dave McCurdy has been synonymous with English springers for more than 20 years.

His description of the joy of working with these particular dogs and his advice on choosing one are precisely the same as those outlined by Mr. Markham in England all those years ago.

He speaks in superlatives about the



PHOTOS BY JIM GOURLAY



limitless energy and enthusiasm of springers; their willingness to please, ease of training and extroverted personality. Infatuation is far too weak a word to describe his relationship with his dogs. Passion is closer. It is an almost total preoccupation; a way of life. There is scarcely a wall in his home without a print, photograph or painting of hunting dogs. He possesses a library of what must surely be every book ever written on the subject. The basement of his comfortable home is obviously intended more for dogs than people.

Each day of the year begins in exactly the same way for "Doc" McCurdy — a 7 a.m. stroll in the wooded area behind his house near Halifax's Dingle Park with a minimum of four dogs in tow.

Great smiles on their faces, wet tongues flopping, and legs a blur, the springers

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Seasons

Fishing:

Trout, April 15-Sept. 30

Salmon, (see individual listings)

Hunting:

White tail deer and black bear,

month of November
Upland birds and small game,
Oct. 1-Feb. 15

1 Margaree Valley Outdoor Sport (YW-18-84)

Enjoy fishing in this famous, beautiful river, a special haven for American sportsmen. The scenic beauty here will capture your heart. Atlantic salmon: summer run June 15-Sept. 1; fall run Sept. 1-Oct. 15. 2 days/3 nights

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|-----------------|------|--------------|
| per person | from | \$400 |
| 5 days/6 nights | from | \$900 |
| per person | from | \$900 |

(For non-hunting/fishing visitors for 2 days, 3 nights per person from \$250; 5 days/6 nights per person from \$850).

2 Brookfield Hunting (YW-19-84)

Black bear, white tail deer, wildcat and racoon; all the excitement you could ask for in woodlands where other hunters are rare. You'll find a high rate of success on big and small game. Hounds provided for small game hunting.

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|-----------------|------------|------|--------------|
| 2 days/3 nights | per person | from | \$400 |
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3 Musquodoboit Valley Outdoor Sport YW-20-84)

Here's a chance to get your adrenalin flowing when you go after the sea run brook trout you've heard so much about. Also atlantic salmon and white tail deer. Accommodations for 5. Atlantic salmon: summer run June 1-Aug. 15; fall run Aug. 15-Oct. 30.

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|-----------------|------------|------|--------------|
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(For non-hunting/fishing visitors for 2 days, 3 nights per person from \$250; 5 days/6 nights per person from \$850).

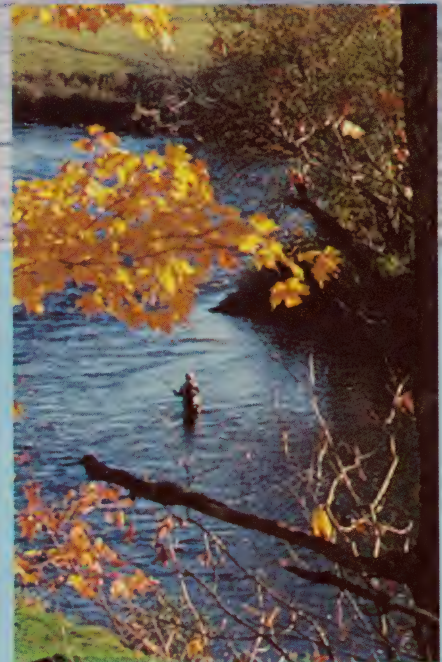
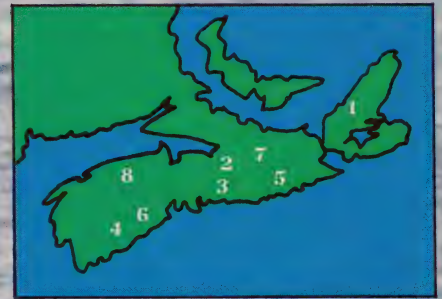
4 Ten Mile Lake Outdoor Sport (YW-21-84)

Savour a secluded island retreat in an area where salmon, trout, deer and bear abound. This is the perfect getaway. Accommodations for 15. Atlantic salmon: summer run May 24-July 31.

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------|--------------|
| 2 days/3 nights | per person | from | \$400 |
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(For non-hunting/fishing visitors for 2 days, 3 nights per person from \$250; 5 days/6 nights per person from \$850).

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5 Guysborough County Outdoor Sport (YW-23-84)

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6 Medway River Outdoor Sport (YW-23-84)

Discover this quiet, secluded location on the scenic Medway. It's a refreshing change of pace, with accommodations for 12 and a sauna for relaxation. Atlantic salmon: summer run May 24-July 31.

2 days/3 nights per person from **\$400**
5 days/6 nights per person from **\$900**

(For non-hunting/fishing visitors for 2 days, 3 nights per person from \$250; 5 days/6 nights per person from \$850).

7 Colchester County Outdoor Sport (YW-24-84)

If atlantic salmon and trophy deer set your heart pounding, this is the place for you. The success rate here is phenomenal. Accommodations for 6. Atlantic salmon: summer run June 1-Aug. 15; fall run Aug. 15-Oct. 15.

2 days/3 nights per person from **\$400**
5 days/6 nights per person from **\$900**

(For non-hunting/fishing visitors for 2 days, 3 nights per person from \$250; 5 days/6 nights per person from \$850).

8 Annapolis Valley Outdoor Sport (YW-25-84)

If you have a family outing in mind, come along to this unspoiled setting. There's something for everyone to enjoy and don't forget your camera. Accommodations for 6. Atlantic salmon: summer run June 1-July 31.

2 days/3 nights per person from **\$400**
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quarter in front of the master, quite independent of each other, but halting every few seconds to glance back. His use of the whistle is more appropriately described as a "toot!" rather than a blast. He issues verbal commands softly, rarely raising his voice. The hand signals are subtle.

A series of short whistles signals "come!" All four animals wheel around immediately and race back to sit at his feet, eyes rivetted on his face, hind quarters quivering in anticipation of the next command.

It's an impressive display. Four hyperactive dogs streaking hell bent for leather through the undergrowth — yet constantly under total control.

There are really only two factors involved, he says: Breeding and training; the former perhaps more important. To prove the point, he introduces a powerful male that is carrying too much weight and is rarely used in the field. The dog is being boarded for a busy owner.

To all intents and purposes, he explains, this is a house pet, yet, given the

opportunity, the animal will work his heart out, and work well at that.

Dave McCurdy acquired his first springer spaniel in 1929. It was a two-year-old; never field-trained, and not yet introduced to the report of a gun; yet the dog worked well over waterfowl and various upland game birds thereby disproving the myth that a good gun dog must be trained from the very earliest age. The instincts are too strong, he argues. If the dog "has not been tampered with," it can be taught new tricks.

He will disagree with those who would suggest the most likely candidate for "all-round field dog" is the Labrador.

Springers, he boasts, will work more than adequately on waterfowl from a blind; excel on upland birds and, in the British Isles happily work rabbits and hares. They have the capacity to be all-round "specialists."

But apart from their delightful personality and action in the field, there's an aspect of working with flushing dogs, as opposed to pointers or retrievers that, for



"All four animals... sit at his feet, eyes rivetted on his face, hind quarters quivering in anticipation of the next command."

Dave McCurdy — and others — represents the most attractive feature.

There is, perhaps, no closer bond between man and animal than that which takes place during the working relationship necessary for good spaniel field work. While other breeds may hunt for the master, the spaniel works with the master. Both hunter and dog must work as a perfect team in a close partnership based on mutual trust and respect.

He speaks almost emotionally of the plateau that can be reached by an expert trainer and a mature, experienced dog. Such is the level of uncommunicated understanding that both parties know what the other can be expected to do in almost any given situation, so that instructions between man and dog become superfluous.

For him the satisfaction lies in working with the dogs. The sport is enjoyable, certainly, but secondary.

It was upon moving to Halifax from Sydney in 1961 that Dr. McCurdy became familiar with the work of the English springer breeder Talbot Radcliffe, and the famous Saighton Kennels on the Island of

Anglesey off the Welsh coast. Before long a 14-month-old male named Saighton's Sort had entered his life.

"He was an exciting and pleasing dog," he says. "and I resolved never to be without his blood in my kennel."

In spite of hard and fast policy of declining solicitations for a pair of dogs for breeding purposes outside the Saighton Kennel, Doc McCurdy successfully prevailed upon Radcliffe to find him a suitable female.

At that time, he says, springers were "at a low ebb" in the region. "They were mostly show dogs... very few field dogs..."

Enter a young female named Samantha.

The first litter produced 11 healthy pups which were eagerly snapped up by local sportsmen. Within four months the notion of a springer club to augment the Nova Scotia Field Trials Association was being tossed around, and that fall the Scotia Springer Club held its first field trial with only one dog from outside the McCurdy kennel competing. The rest is history.

Jim Gourlay



A FEW HINTS...

Dr. McCurdy offered advice for the first time springer owner:

- Pay scrupulous attention to parentage. Have a look at both the sire and the dame if possible. Ask to see them work.

- If feasible, acquire the pup at the seventh week. This is an ideal time for weaning and a golden opportunity for the new owner to replace the pup's mother as the focus of its life. Establish a solid bond by totally catering to the young dog.

- The greatest mistake is to be too anxious to hunt the dog and to confuse the animal by introducing it to the rigours of the field before yard training is complete. Eight months is probably a safe minimum length of time for yard training before gradually introducing the dog to scent; but it should be borne in mind that a springer is not fully mature till about 24 months.

- The advice of other owners can be invaluable. Seek them out. Books are fine, but usually not enough.

- Probably the most serious weakness in a trainer is to be too easily satisfied. Consistency is the key. If a dog cannot be easily controlled in the back yard then it certainly will be out of control in the field and the potential for tremendous enjoyment and satisfaction will be lost as a consequence.

- But while it is necessary to insist upon obedience, it is also necessary to make allowances for the natural curiosity, playfulness and limited attention span of a young animal.

"There's a lot of psychology involved." One should train the dog away from obvious distractions, for instance, and be aware that children have a particular talent for fouling up training.

- Discipline should be meted out when a dog obviously and deliberately disobeys — but the punishment should be tempered, rather than administered in frustration or anger. It is usually sufficient to stop the dog, lift it by the scruff of the neck, and place it where it should be or where the infraction was committed.

The dog is not physically hurt, "but it's a blow to his dignity. He's embarrassed."

- A field dog must be fit. Feeding is probably the most common factor in overweight animals. A good quality dry dog food is "a safe, steady diet," but it can be supplemented with table scraps. Morning and/or evening walks are important, but since dogs have a poor tolerance for heat, swimming makes more sense in mid-summer.

out Gun Talk

with Gary J. Duncan

Important considerations must be made before buying that new gun

So you're off to buy a new shotgun. If you're Mr. Average there's an excellent chance you are about to make at least one, and probably several, mistakes. I say this because as a firearms dealer I am constantly deluged with questions.

Were you aware, for instance, that barrel length has no effect on how far a shotgun shoots or how hard the shot hits? The only exception is if the barrel is too short. The powder in a shot shell is completely burned up in the first 20 inches of barrel so a 26-inch and 32-inch barrel will do exactly the same thing if they are choked the same.

Shotguns, unlike rifles, are designed to hit moving targets at relatively close range and are pointed rather than precisely aimed.

Since no sights are used, except for a bead at the muzzle, the shotgun shooter must grip, mount and hold his gun in precisely the same manner each time he fires. He must maintain a consistent gun-to-eye, check-to-stock, and shoulder-to-butt gun relationship every time he lines up on target. Shotguns, like shoes, must "fit" the individual and point naturally. If a shotgun feels awkward or at all unnatural when handled, it's probably not the gun for you.

Choosing a shotgun is a personal matter that cannot be left to chance or luck. Hopefully this article may alleviate some problems and help narrow your choice to a particular type of action.

Breech-loading shotguns as we know them may have started as early as 1812 when a man named Joahannes Samuel Pauly developed a break-open breech-loader firing a cardboard case. The next real innovation was the choke. The early weapons had no bore constriction whatsoever. By slightly narrowing the bore at the muzzle it was discovered that shotguns would throw a denser pattern of shot. Thus, with the correct charge of powder and shot, the range could be extended.

Next came the repeating shotgun, in the form of a lever action, and later the first slide action or pump gun, (which was not the 1897 Winchester as claimed by some, but a Spencer, built in 1885 on an 1882 patent).

The now famous "Browning hump-back" was patented in 1900 and may have

been the first semi-automatic shotgun. Except for superficial design changes, new metals, and wood substitutes, this brings us to the shotguns available today.

There are six basic action types available. The single shot, bolt action, slide-action (pump) and autoloader (semi-automatic). These guns, although very different in design, all have a common denominator, one barrel. The two-barrelled variety, side-by-side and over-and-under, constitute the other types. More imaginative designs have been tried, including a four-barrelled "Purdy" with a single trigger, but we will stick to what we can legally use and purchase.

Single-shot guns in their common top-lever, break-open form, are the least expensive. The majority of these are "hammer guns" with an outside hammer which must be manually pulled back to cock and fire. The chamber can be easily inspected and the break-open design is safer when crossing obstacles or fences. Single shots are also simple to clean and maintain — however they usually come only in full choke, are poorly balanced and far too light, which in larger gauges means they really kick; not a good feature to introduce to any shooter.

The bolt action may be a one-shot gun or have a clip holding two or more shells. It is usually reliable, well-built and reasonably priced, but very slow in operation, and clumsy to handle. Understandably they are not popular.

The slide action (pump) is almost a North American love affair. Many makes and models are available and some shooters feel more comfortable with a pump than an auto-loader because it is manually operated. In the hands of a "pro" it is as fast as a semi-automatic, and with different barrel lengths, chokes, and the availability of screw-in and adjustable chokes, becomes extremely versatile. The pump is safe in that although it will hold multiple shells, it can be used as a single shot. Each new shell must be manually pumped, with a rearward and forward motion of the slide action, so the shooter knows instinctively if a live round is in the



The traditional, hand-crafted side-by-side double is the "Mercedes" of shotguns — and just about as expensive.

chamber. Pumps are easy to maintain and usually function flawlessly. They are also less expensive than auto-loaders of similar quality.

Semi-automatic, or self loading, shotguns are made in large numbers. Like the pump, autoloaders have become immensely popular and with progressively fewer parts and technical advancements, now also prove very reliable. They are capable of rapid firepower, automatically, and with a wide choice of barrels and chokes now available, they are also extremely versatile, if somewhat more expensive. The most common semi-automatic is gas operated and in very basic terms works as follows:

Part of the gas from the fired shell is diverted through a port, back into the mechanism of the gun, thereby bringing about the same basic operation as the pump. The difference is that it is all done internally and automatically. The ability to stay on target while the gun self-feeds the next shell is a great advantage to the shooter.

Both pumps and autos usually have the safety just forward or just behind the trigger, cross bolt style. While the shooter is the ultimate safety, the cross bolt is adequate, although not the author's favourite.

The main advantage of autoloaders is that they are "perceived" to have less recoil and are pleasant to shoot. While they don't actually absorb a significant amount of recoil, they do stretch out the time the recoil force actually acts on a shooter's shoulder. This results in the feeling of a drawn out shove rather than a short, sharp "kick."

The double-barrel or side-by-side is accepted worldwide by shooters as the classic — the "Mercedes-Benz" of guns. Doubles and over-and-unders can be extremely expensive with some hand-made foreign models valued higher than an average home. However a number of well-made, reasonably-priced varieties are available.

Both varieties offer the availability of two shots from barrels which usually have different degrees of choke. The shooter can decide instantly which barrel to fire. This may make the double, either side-by-

side or over-and-under, the best choice in the field. They come with single or double triggers and are extremely reliable and safe. The safety is usually located on the tang (or top) right under the shooter's thumb, which makes it always easy to check.

In recent years there has been a return to the appreciation of a gun as something to enjoy the look and feel of, rather than just as a tool, and this has made doubles and over-and-unders more popular than ever.

The over-and-under gives a single sighting plane or single barrel to look over and many upland hunters and skeet and trap shooters find them particularly advantageous for a more precise eye reference to the target.

The stack barrel, (over-and-under) has only two drawbacks when compared to the double. In tight quarters when broken open, it has a wider arc and takes up more space below the shooter. Over-and-unders are almost always more expensive. Doubles and over-and-unders do share the same advantages of short overall length, good balance, safety and instant choice of barrel selection. They are both beautiful and functional.

When contemplating your purchase, after deciding on shotgun type, it's always a

good idea to talk to friends who own guns. Ask about their experiences with dealers in your area and shop around. If you are unsure about a certain store check to see if there have been past problems or complaints. Then choose a dealer whose opinions, knowledge and judgement you feel you can trust. Make sure that in the event of a problem he could determine what is wrong and knows where to get his products repaired quickly and properly. If there is a self-caused problem, be honest and help his diagnosis. Be reasonable in your expectations; guns often take some time to repair.

The main purpose of a shotgun is to shoot game or clay targets. It is not intended to be used against road signs, fence posts, power poles or game not covered by hunting regulations. If you plan to hunt on someone else's land, ask permission. You would expect that same courtesy, and do remember to stop and say "thanks."

Don't be a game hog. Tomorrow is another day. If there is nothing left to breed, the hunting you enjoy will be ended by your own thoughtlessness. Obey the game laws, they help us all. Part of hunting is conservation. Be part of that by doing your part. Good hunting.

"Choke" is the degree of constriction at the muzzle of a shotgun. The degree of choke

determines how dense or loose the shot pattern will be at a distance of 40 yards.

"Muzzle" is simply the forward end, or front, of the gun.

"Chamber" is that portion at the rear of the gun barrel enlarged to accept the loaded cartridge and support during firing.

"Recoil" is the rearward thrust produced against the shoulder or hand when a gun is fired.



Rules in the field and at home

1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
2. Watch the muzzle at all times.
3. As soon as you pick up a gun open the action and inspect for a live round.
4. Be certain the barrel is clear of obstructions before firing.
5. Always unload when not in use.
6. Never point a gun at anything you don't intend to shoot.
7. Store guns and ammunition separately, and out of reach of children.
8. Alcohol and guns do not mix.

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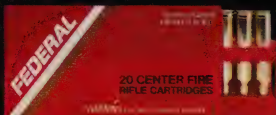
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Game Outlook Improved for Coming Season

Black ducks the only species in trouble: bag limits reduced

With a single exception, the outlook for game birds and mammals this year is approximately on par with or slightly better than 1983.

That exception is the venerable black duck, which has settled into a steady decline that has biologists concerned and somewhat puzzled. Bag limits were reduced in the United States last year in response to diminishing numbers of birds.

Canada will do likewise this fall.

It's still only theory, but it appears likely several factors are responsible for the black's troubles, says Dr. Bill Whitman of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, N.B.

Hunting pressure is undoubtedly involved, he says, but so might also be the move eastward of the mallard, which will compete to some extent for habitat.

There's a third possible factor, though. We tend to relate acid rain with declines

in fish populations. Dr. Whitman theorizes, however, that the acid-related loss of aquatic insect life is depriving young black ducks of a vital food source.

In other game species:

TEAL populations may be down somewhat this year due to the cool, wet spring, although it remains to be seen how much late or repeat nesting took place.

CANADA GEESE have been in excellent shape for some time now, although they may be a little late this year, again due to the cold spring, with perhaps younger birds than usual being seen.

WOODCOCK have been in something of a slump in the past few years. The slight improvement noted last year is expected to at least hold through 1984.

SEA DUCKS of all species seem to continue to flourish each year without cause for concern. No change is anticipated.

MOOSE continue to thrive in insular Newfoundland under a successful management plan and promise to do even better in the future. The herd has grown to an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 animals offering a 65 per cent success rate for hunters. The optimum population level, however, is calculated at about 100,000 given the island's ample habitat.

New Brunswick has enjoyed a 25 to 30 per cent success rate with the three-day season introduced in 1974. The herd appears to be holding its own, but aerial surveys are being carried out in order to improve the data base.

Nova Scotia's moose herd is not doing well and no open season is anticipated in the foreseeable future. Brain worm, or p. tenuis, is continuing to take its toll and poaching, of course, isn't helping the situation.

WHITETAIL DEER are in excellent shape population-wise in both Nova Scotia



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and New Brunswick, although early signs of malnutrition have biologists a mite concerned in Nova Scotia. In both provinces the herd has grown dramatically in the past decade, with consecutive mild winters considered to be a major factor. Nova Scotia's current population level is estimated at about 133,000 while in New Brunswick the estimate runs as high as 130,000 to 160,000.

Those early signs of malnutrition in Nova Scotia are taken as an indication the herd has reached optimum size, while in New Brunswick it is felt available habitat offers room for even further growth.

BLACK BEAR populations appear to be stable in Newfoundland and Labrador, increasing slightly in New Brunswick, and on a bit of a decline in Nova Scotia — the use of the foot snare being regarded as a factor.

CARIBOU are stable in Newfoundland and Labrador, although the relatively new herd on the island is not growing as quickly as was anticipated and fairly severe poaching is seen as a factor.

LYNX have been affected generally by the recent low cycle in ruffed grouse and,



The prognosis for upland game birds throughout the Atlantic provinces this fall is mixed. Those species, however, that have been in decline for the past couple of years, appear to be showing some improvement.

in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, are expected to suffer at the hands of the growing populations of coyotes.

SNOWSHOE HARES, thanks in part

to forestry cutting, are in good shape everywhere. In Newfoundland alone, at least two million are estimated to be taken in snares each year and no one has any idea of what the total population might be.

RUFFED GROUSE appear to have bottomed out everywhere and are on their way to making a comeback. Newfoundland's population is, perhaps, the strongest, although snares are a problem.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE populations have been down for some time and no improvement is anticipated in the near future, certainly not this year.

RING-NECK PHEASANT cock crowing counts in Nova Scotia last spring were the highest ever recorded. It remains to be seen, however, what effect the poor spring conditions had on actual brooding success.

Pheasants are not an important species in any other Atlantic province.

PTARMIGAN, the high country dweller found in Atlantic Canada only in Newfoundland and Labrador, have been at the low end of their cycle for the past three or four years. Improvement, if any, is expected to be slight.

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THE JOY OF FALL FISHING

Don't put that rod away yet; the fall has much to offer

Ah! The glorious fall.

For the all-round outdoorsman the hazy heat of late summer is roughly equivalent to late winter when anticipation fills idle heads with fishing fantasies. It's almost hunting season. Winters are long, but it can be a long summer too.

The first maple turned red in the fall is somewhat akin to the first mayfly of spring. It's an exciting indicator of things to come; an early morning deer in a Nova Scotia meadow, a covey of ptarmigan on a Newfoundland moorland, a flight of big Canadas putting on the brakes for a landing — just a little something else to add to the psyching up process.

But wait just a minute here. Fishing isn't over yet: At least it doesn't have to be.

It's almost a tradition in Atlantic

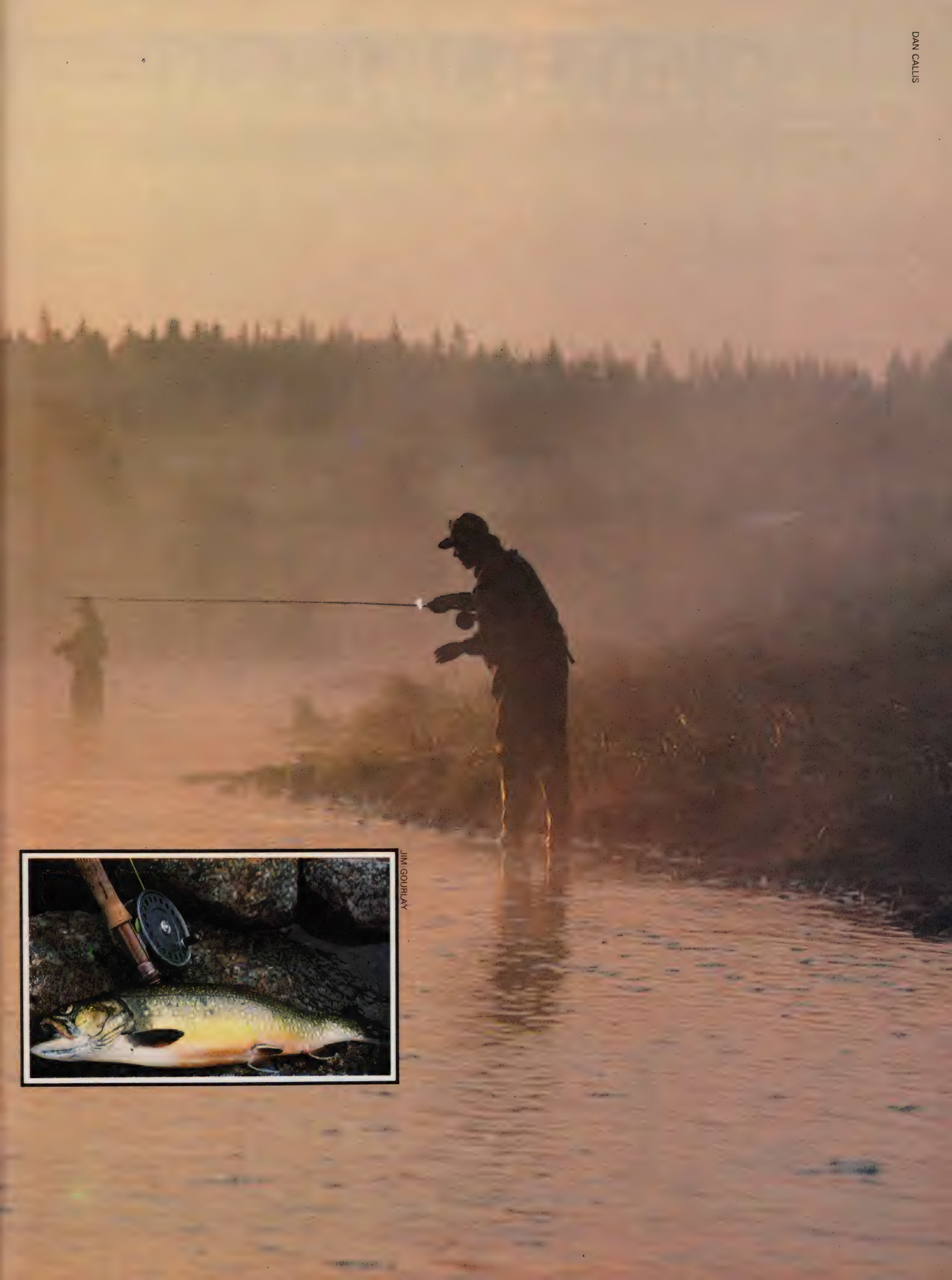
Canada that we trout fish in the spring, salmon fish in the summer, and hunt in the fall. But things have been changing and we can probably expect that they will continue to change.

The Europeans have realized for generations that their German brown trout fishery makes a recovery as temperatures drop each autumn. They put their fishing tackle aside, not away, for the summer. "The back end" (of the season) it's called in the Scottish hillsides that shelter deep lochs brimming with big, fat brownies that will come to the fly readily in September and October.

In more recent years the growing popularity of rainbows for stocking of enhanced or privately-managed fisheries has extended the trout season in many localities around the globe. Rainbows win-



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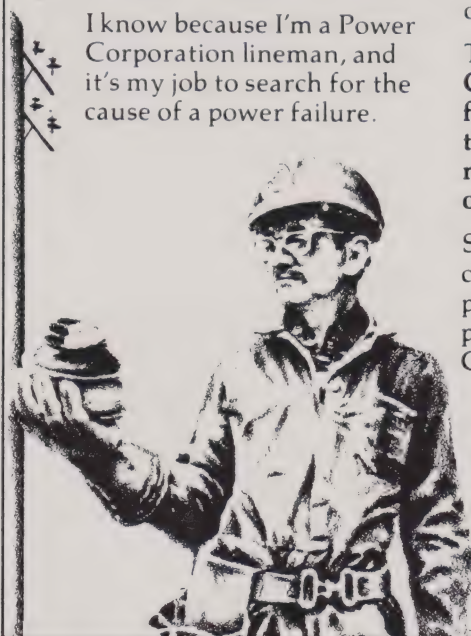
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ter very badly, especially in Canada, and really don't come into their own until almost mid-summer. Fall is arguably prime rainbow time.

And even the humble old brookie can provide interesting sport at the season's end. Lower water temperatures tempt them out of the deep holes that provide sanctuary during the warm months and will begin rising to the tiny mayflies that typify the "back end" of the angler's year.

As the males' exterior appearance alters, though, in preparation for spawning — hump backs, hook jaws and spawning colors — so does their temperament. They are no longer content to kill merely for food. They will attack out of jealousy and territorialism.

Big, sleek, sparse streamer flies and lures will therefore do well.

For the dry fly buff autumn is also the time when insects that are usually not regarded as being aquatic tend to end up in the water as their lives end. Bees, wasps, moths, grasshoppers, crickets, and the like will often end up dunked conveniently for a large trout. Imitating them can actually provide far superior sport to mayfly fishin': Easier too.

Big, cumbersome, hairy monsters of almost any description will take large fish just at dusk. A bushy muddler minnow is a good standby, but anything fashioned from deer hair remotely resembling an insect will work if thrown out on a long leader, twitched on the surface, left, and twitched again. The takes are often classic head and tail raises and the action fierce.

Only within the last decade are the Maritimes' fall salmon runs gaining the respect and attention they deserve from sportsfishermen.

Sure, a dark, lethargic fall fish doesn't begin to compare with a bright, aerobic, cartwheeling springer on a nice early June flood.

And there are those who will sneer at the prospect of taking a fish so ripe with spawn (although the logic of that argument is lost when one also considers that a spring salmon killed is also spawning potential lost).

If the fish are less thrilling, there are compensating factors to be considered: The pure esthetic appeal of steamy mornings when the wet line shimmers in the first shafts of sunlight; a rude awakening when a ruffed grouse explodes from the undergrowth; an incoming flight of black ducks low overhead — and no blackflies; no skeeters.

The fall is too precious just to be afield. For those with the initiative to seek it out, there's superb fall fishing to be had all over the region. Don't put that rod away yet.

Jim Gourlay

DEER JACKING:



DAN BRENNAN

The Good Guys Fight Back

Simple surveillance and reporting by local citizenry is curbing this chronic problem

After midnight, when most villagers in Noel Shore, Nova Scotia, are being lulled to sleep by the rolling tides of Cobequid Bay, Lou Miller is out prowling secluded back roads.

But wife Betty doesn't mind her husband's unusual nocturnal habits. In fact, she encourages it; and so do other residents of that part of Hants County who value their homes, land, farm animals and wildlife.

There are outlaws on the Noel Shore — deer jackers — and the townsfolk would just as soon see them run out of the area.

Jacking derives its name from the light that is used to hunt animals at night. A jacklight, or suitable alternative, is aimed directly at a deer which is immobilized by the light shining in his eyes, thus rendering the animal an easy target.

Every county in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is infested with deer jackers, but how bad the problem really was in Noel Shore wasn't clear until that first meeting. On a November day back in 1977, Lou Miller and some other concerned men and women of Noel Shore met in the town hall, organized a sort of modern-day posse, and resolved to rid

their community of a nuisance which had reached intolerable proportions.

Each of the 17 people at the town hall recounted an experience: A senior citizen had endured countless sleepless nights because of the intrusion of four-wheel drive vehicles gunning across her fields; another man's farm animals, mistaken for deer, were shot and left to die; bullets from high-powered rifles pierced the night's quiet as they screamed past another family's bedroom windows; an old man living alone who had heard trespassers' voices and gone out to investigate was later found lying unconscious from a blow to the back of the head from a rifle butt.

Men with respect for neither law nor land were victimizing and intimidating a peaceful community. But proud people can only be pushed so far before they begin to fight back. From that first meeting came the formation of the Noel Shore Game Protection Association (NSGPA).

And in Port Elgin, New Brunswick, Irvin Robinson and some of his neighbours got mad. They were tired of hearing shots late at night and finding dead deer or cattle in their fields the next morning. But, unlike many rural residents who face a

similar situation, they did something about it. That something was to form, in November of 1982, a Neighbourhood Game Patrol. With their numbers seldom more than a dozen at any one time, they set up nightly patrols on the many roads in the Port Elgin-Little Shemogue area.

They emphasize that their purpose is not to arrest anyone, but merely to report anything suspicious to the local RCMP or the district's forest rangers.

Successful? Yes. Easy? No. At first there were dire warnings of reprisals by those who might find their law breaking activities curtailed by this type of patrol. But as Robinson says, "More people are coming forward who had been skeptical when we started. They see now that they have nothing to fear. As a result we are receiving much more information. All it takes is a phone call."

However, caution is the keynote to their operations. Certain people they have spotted late at night are known to be mixed up with the narcotics trade, and the majority of the poachers usually combine heavy drinking with their jacking. As a result, each patrol always consists of at least two persons per vehicle, and is in fre-

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quent contact with the control centre at Robinson's house via CB radio.

Whatever the activity they may discover, the patrols do not interfere, but merely report to the proper authorities anything that appears suspicious. They report licence plate numbers, vehicle description, and sometimes will recognize the people they have under surveillance. Often, however, they find that the vehicle is not from the area and routine checks have found that some vehicles driving the roads late at night come from as far away as the north shore area of the province.

Sackville Forest Ranger, Monty DeLong, whose area also includes Port Elgin, had this to say:

"While the Neighbourhood Game Patrol has not eliminated poaching in the area, it has decreased it significantly, and has also reduced vandalism. It certainly has been a great help to us."

Port Elgin RCMP also are fully involved, and there is close co-operation between their detachment, the forest rangers, and Robinson and his group.

"There is a large scale black market of moose and deer meat," Robinson says, "with much of it being sold out of province, in Quebec and Ontario, as well as the United States. There is even a price list being circulated by buyers, who also buy heads, horns and any other item that they can sell."

The Department of Natural Resources in Fredericton has been most enthusiastic about the group.

Deer jackers have been called many things: "Scum of the earth," says Laurie Saulnier, Governor of the East Hants Wildlife Federation, "renegades," says Casey Pendergast, Supervisor of Enforcement and Hunter Safety for the Department of Lands and Forests in Nova Scotia. "Outlaws," says Miller, current President of the NSGPA. But whatever they are called one thing is certain: They are dangerous. And Lou Miller knows it.

"I've had people threaten to shoot me," he says. "But something had to be done."

People have become so afraid of re-criminations that if they hear a shot in the middle of the night, rather than call the authorities themselves and have to give their name, they'll call the Millers, and then Lou will make the call.

"People are afraid that these outlaws will burn their buildings down," says Miller. But he remains undaunted. "We have some very brave people in the association, and we don't mind a few threats if we can get rid of the problem."

Any time a group of citizens bands together to combat crime, one thinks of vigilantes armed to the teeth and prepared

to shoot the first suspicious character they meet. But these people are peaceful, law-abiding citizens whose sole intention is to harass, interfere with, and frustrate the jackers in the hope of getting them out of the area.

Dear jackers come in two classifications. There is the individual who, with a group of his buddies, will pour liquor into his belly for false courage and go out and jack a deer. To him, the outsmarting and outmanoeuvring of the law is the challenge and the kick.

One man, who asked not to be identified, describes his experience. "I wanted to try it once, just to see what it was like. Me and another guy went out to this field up in Colchester County and waited. The adrenalin's pumping. You know it's against the law, but you just want to see if you can get away with it. But I was getting scared. My heart was pounding. We'd been waiting for about an hour when finally, about 100 feet in front of us, we heard a noise. I shone the light into the field and this big buck was staring right back at me. My buddy aimed the rifle and fired, but missed. The next thing I know, I hear this car coming and I got up and started running. No way I'm doing that again, it ain't worth the risk."

The risk he is referring to is the threat of facing a penalty of \$1,000, a confiscation of the rifle, and possibly vehicles and other equipment.

The professional deer jacker, however, is out to make a dollar, plain and simple. His methods are somewhat more sophisticated making him more difficult for law enforcement agencies to apprehend.

"They are the ones we worry about the most," says Mike Lowe.

Professional jackers never work alone. They usually travel in three vehicles, each equipped with two-way radios and scanning devices in order to monitor law enforcement frequencies. The first vehicle will drive down a road and sit there. It may be occupied by a man and a woman, so if a police patrol were to drive by, appearances would suggest an ordinary couple seeking some privacy.

The second vehicle then proceeds down the same road until it arrives at a field. This is the group who will do the actual jacking. It is against the law to carry an uncased rifle after dark, rifles and lights may have been stashed nearby earlier that day. The third vehicle will then take up a position a few miles behind the second one, ready to warn the others if vehicles are approaching. They may even call in a false complaint to send game wardens off in another direction.

It is this type of situation that Miller

and the other members of the NSGPA faced seven years ago when they began their crusade. Since that time, they have encountered local jackers, jackers from Halifax-Dartmouth, and even from New Brunswick. In fact, they were successful in harassing one ring operating in the area to the extent that they forced them out altogether.

The efforts of the NSGPA have not gone unnoticed. They have the full support of the Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation and the provincial Department of Lands and Forests. Casey Pendergast, along with game warden Ivan Myers and members of the RCMP were at that first meeting in the Noel Shore town hall. They had fears originally that a vigilante force was emerging from the ire of an enraged and frightened citizenry. They were concerned that someone could get hurt. With good reason.

Pendergast has documented cases on file where game wardens have been spit at, threatened, attacked and injured.

To allow a group of untrained, albeit dedicated, citizens to go stalking the woods in search of dangerous men was a foolhardy and risky business. Pendergast and the other officers warned that under no circumstances were the members of the NSGPA allowed to confront the deer-jackers or attempt to take the law into their own hands. They could watch, observe suspicious vehicular movement, get licence numbers, and take down descriptions of those seen jacking, but that was all.

That was fine with Miller and the others. That was all they wanted to do in the first place. "We just wanted to drive them out of our area," says Betty Miller. "And we've pretty well succeeded in doing that."

Mike Lowe agrees. "I can tell you for a fact that there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of complaints from up there."

But it has taken seven years of vigilance, of driving the back roads from midnight to dawn, accumulating as much as 15,000 kilometres of wear and tear on personal vehicles at personal expense.

Every night from September to December, someone from the association maintains surveillance.

With the years of experience they now have, it is no longer necessary for members to be out every night. A system has naturally evolved so that only certain areas are watched and patrols go out every other evening as opposed to every night.

"At first, we'd be there every night, just travelling the roads, watching for cars. If we saw somebody who looked suspicious, we'd go up to them and tell them we knew

what they were up to and that they'd better get out. Either that, or we'd just follow them to see where they were going. We'd follow them right to their driveway if we had to," says Miller.

Although Miller doesn't like to travel alone, he has done it on occasion. Betty is not pleased with that arrangement, but as much as she supports him, she will not go out with him. "That's no place for a woman to be," she says.

There is close co-operation between the NSGPA, Lands and Forests, and the RCMP, and over the years mutual respect has developed. But despite that, there is frustration that the efforts of the Noel Shore citizens' group are being undermined by what Betty Miller calls a reluctance on the part of the RCMP to find out where the illegal deer meat is going.

Deer jacking is big business and there is money to be made. There is no question that there is a profitable black market for deer meat, and it is attracting more and bigger investors.

"There are some very influential people operating this thing," says Lou Miller.

Casey Pendergast agrees. A few years ago Lands and Forests caught and arrested a man jacking a deer. "He was a renegade who had been in all sorts of trouble with the law," says Pendergast. According to information the department had, this man retained one of the top lawyers in Halifax for his defence.

"There was no way this guy could afford the legal costs. We knew somebody was paying the bills, but we couldn't prove anything."

It is frustrating for Miller and the NSGPA because they know that their job in the Noel Shore would be made infinitely easier if the source of the ring could be eliminated.

Meanwhile, membership in the Noel Shore Game Protection Association continues to grow. From the original 17, the association now boasts more than 50 members, and although jacking is still a priority, the goals of the association have expanded. Betty Miller is proud of their record, and is quick to point out that the association is now involved in education and development.

Last year, a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded by the NSGPA to a student at Acadia University to assist with her thesis on trout fishing.

Jerry Blom, vice-president of the Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation, described what was happening in the Noel Shore previously as "a slaughter."

**Barry Dunn in Nova Scotia with
Everett Mosher in New Brunswick**

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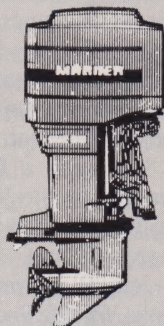
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The Country Kitchen

The art of cooking wild game and vegetables was mastered by our ancestors as a matter of necessity, but has been lost to many modern households. Fortunately many of the old recipes are still in circulation. OUT magazine will be offering hints on table preparation of fish, game and wild plants as a regular feature.

Roast Pheasant

One 2 1/2 - 3 lb pheasant

lemon juice

1 cup chopped celery

1 onion, chopped

Pinch salt and pepper and garlic powder

Butter

1/2 cup sherry

Wipe cavity of pheasant with lemon juice.

Mix celery, onion and seasoning with 1

cup small cubes of hard butter and stuff

the bird full of this mixture. Don't close

or tie cavity. Put small cubes of butter in

skin creases. Fold the wings over the

back, skewer, and tie legs together.

Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Soak

cheese cloth in melted butter and cover

bird. Place bird, breast up, on rack in

roast pan. Cover bird with foil and roast,

basting frequently with melted butter

until tender (20 min. per pound).

Remove foil and cheese cloth, add

sherry. Baste and brown for 15 minutes.

Remove, cool; discard stuffing. Make a

brown gravy from drippings. Serve with

rice or potato of choice and fresh

vegetables.

Gary J. Duncan

Peroche (Salmon Pie)

Variation on old family recipe

2 cups freshly cooked salmon

1/4 cup rich fish stock

1/4 cup baby clams (cooked or canned)

1 cup cooked rice

1 medium onion (grated)

2 stalks celery (chopped finely)

Pinch salt, pepper, garlic powder

Pie pastry (2 crusts)

3 tbsp. butter

Preheat oven to (250°C) 400°F.

Combine all ingredients except pastry

and butter. Line deep dish pie plate with

pastry crust and fill with salmon mixture.

Melt butter over top. Cover with top

pastry crust, seal and score. Bake 45

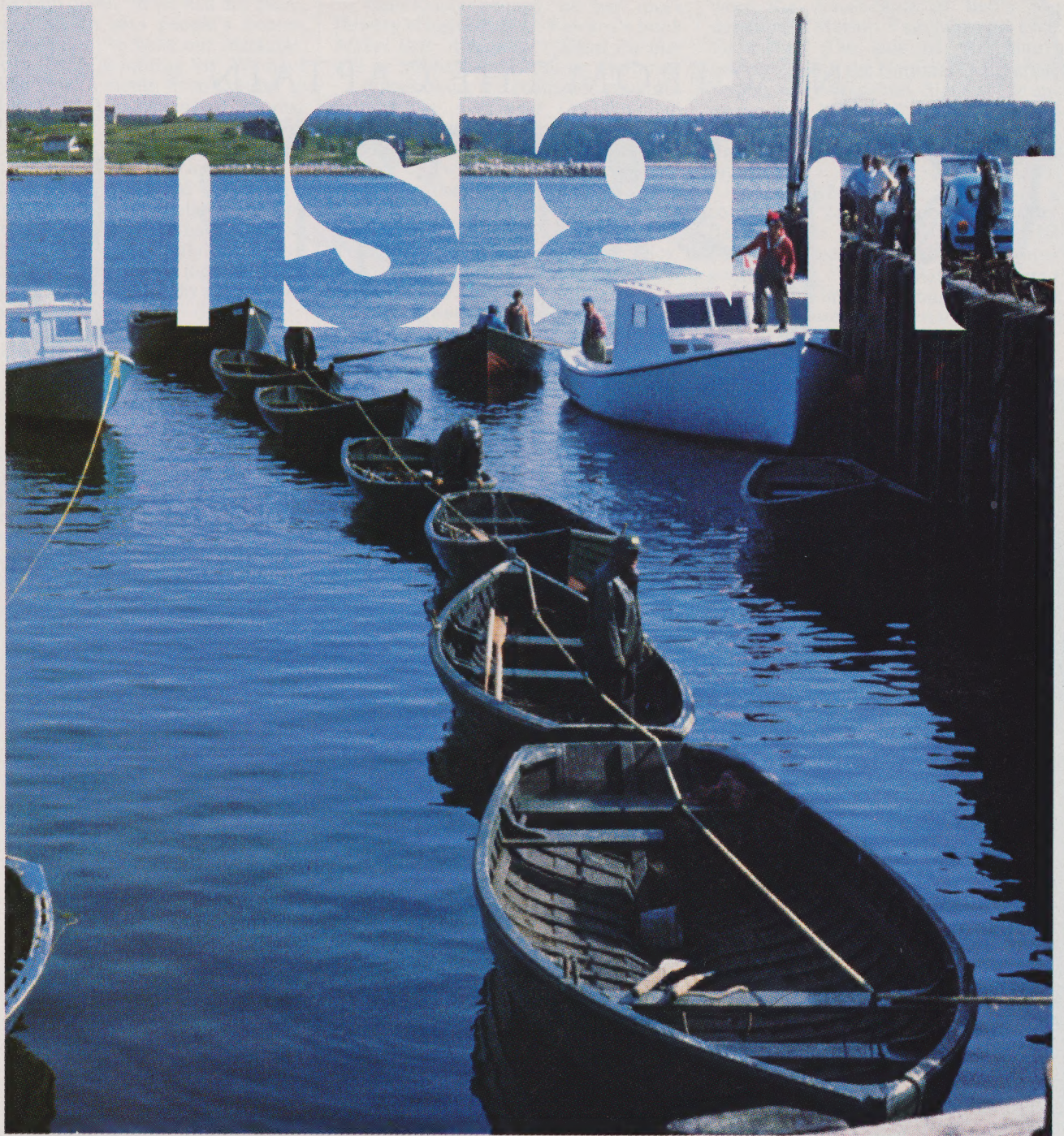
minutes until golden brown. Cover pie

with cheese sauce (melted) of your choice

and serve. (6 Servings) Great with white

wine.

Gary J. Duncan

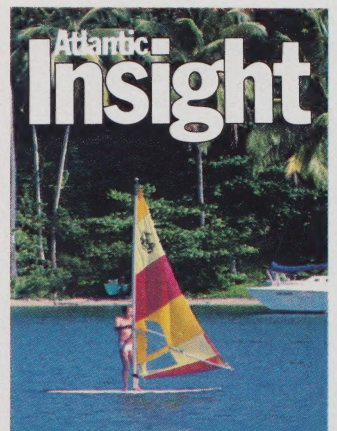


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